43

THE CHARACTER OF *Capt.* Thomas Coram.

Private VIRTUE *and publick* SPIRIT *diſplay'd.*

In a Succinct

ESSAY

ON THE

CHARACTER

OF

Capt. Thomas Coram,

Who deceaſed the 29th of *March*,

AND WAS

Interr'd in the Chapel of the Foundling Hoſpital, (a Charity eſtabliſhed by his Solicitation) *April* 3d, 1751.

LONDON:

Printed for J. ROBERTS, at the *Oxford-Arms*, in *Warwick-Lane*, 1751.

[Price Sixpence.]

W. Hogarth

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THE Tribute of Praiſe is due to every Virtue, due in Proportion to the Excellence and Extent of that Virtue, to which it is paid; and conſequently, public Spirit, which is of all Virtues the moſt conducive to the

Good of Society, deſerves as high Returns of public Gratitude and Reſpect, as can poſſibly be given. This is the rather incumbent on every Community, where conſpicuous Inſtances of this Kind appear, becauſe it is indeed the only Reward adequate to their Merit, and the beſt Method of propagating the Example; for what can ſo properly, or ſo potently excite public Spirit, as the Senſe of its begetting public Love? The moſt illuſtrious of all good Qualities, ought certainly to be honoured with the nobleſt Teſtimony of Affection and Eſteem.

There may indeed be ſome kind of Reſtraint, ſome Check upon our Zeal, during the Life of the Party; from an Apprehenſion that Praiſe might be miſtaken for Flattery; and that inſtead of promoting a general Senſe of the good Man's Virtue, it might be the Means of expoſing him to Envy. But when a Man is dead, Praiſe is leſs ſuſpected, and thoſe who would have liſtened very unwillingly to his Commendations, when living, will be the firſt to applaud and ſupport it when he is no more. Whatever Prejudices he had to combat, whatever Oppoſition was formed to his Deſigns, while he was buſy in the Purſuit, the Man of public Spirit is no

ſooner

ooner at reſt from his Labours and his Life, (which always end together) than the Sentiments of the Public are united on his Behalf, and all attend with Pleaſure to the Recital of thoſe Actions of the Dead, which the Living will find difficult to imitate.

The late Capt. *Thomas Coram*, now gone to his Grave in a good old Age, with the univerſal Regret of the knowing and upright Part of Mankind; was a Perſon whoſe Merit and Virtues were ſo extraordinary, exerted with ſuch Vigour, and with ſo great Conſtancy, for the Benefit of Society, that an Attempt to raiſe ſome little Monument to his Memory, cannot fail of being well received by the Public, whoſe Servant he was for upwards of Forty Years before his Death, without any other Wages than the honeſt Satisfaction he felt in doing good, and diſcharging his Duty; and will, at the ſame time, furniſh a pleaſing Employment to one, who loved him from the Contemplation of his ſingular Character, and for that rugged Integrity, which diſtinguiſhed him exceedingly in the preſent Age; and which would have done him no ſmall Honour even in better Times. An abler Hand might have eaſily under-

taken the Taſk, but none could perform it with a better Will.

He was born about the Year 1668, bred in the Sea Service, and ſpent the firſt Part of his Life in the Station of Maſter of a Veſſel trading to our Colonies, by which he gained a perfect Acquaintance with that Commerce, which is of ſo great Conſequence, and produces ſo great Profit to this Nation. He acquired very early a ſincere and warm Attachment to the true Intereſts of his Country, had a real Concern for them, and did not affect public Spirit, to cover any private Views. His Experience was his principal Guide, and from thence he learned to conſider rational Liberty, active Induſtry, and unblemiſhed Probity, as the only Principles upon which national Proſperity could be built; and to theſe therefore he gave his loudeſt Voice, and his moſt earneſt Endeavours. Free from all Hypocriſy, he ſpoke what he thought with Vehemence; but his Zeal did not reſt in Words, it was no leſs viſible in his Actions; ſo that not contented with wiſhing well to his Country, and ſerving it faithfully in his private and particular Capacity, he ventured to ſtep out of the common Road, and exerted himſelf in favour of

many

many Projects, from no other Motive than their being of general Utility.

It may create ſome Wonder, that without any other Qualifications than theſe, Captain *Coram* ſhould undertake to form Schemes conſiderable for their Extent, and very important in their Intentions; and ſtill more wonderful that he ſhould procure from Men of great Abilities and long Acquaintance with Buſineſs, an Approbation of theſe Schemes, and carry them at length into Execution by Dint of unwearied Application, and a Perſeverance that nothing could delay, diſturb, or deſtroy. But this he certainly did, and, that without any Art but that of diſclaiming it, without any Addreſs beyond that of ſhewing the Advantages which the Public would reap from his Projects, he actually brought them ſooner or later to bear; is a Poſition ſo well ſupported by Facts, that, tho' it is a little improbable, it muſt be believed.

But if he wanted certain Accompliſhments, if he was deficient in ſome things which are thought neceſſary to form a ſucceſsful Solicitor, he had certain Talents that ſupplied theſe Defects. He had an Honeſty, that tho' it was a little rough, carried ſuch apparent Marks of its being genuine, that thoſe who converſed with him

him but a little, loſt all Apprehenſions of being deceived; and if this did not give him an eaſier Entrance, it certainly procured him an earlier Confidence than would have reſulted from a more poliſh'd Behaviour. His Arguments were nervous, tho' not nice, founded commonly upon Facts; and the Conſequences that he drew, ſo cloſely connected with them, as to need no farther Proof than a fair Explanation. When once he made an Impreſſion, he took care it ſhould not wear out; for he enforced it continually by the moſt pathetic Remonſtrances. In ſhort, his Logic was plain Senſe, his Eloquence the natural Language of the Heart.

When the Poſſeſſion of *Nova Scotia* was firſt recovered to the Crown of *Great Britain* by force of Arms, and ſecured afterwards by a Treaty of Peace, Captain *Coram* very early ſaw the Conſequence that this Province was of to the natural Intereſts of this Nation and her Colonies. He was therefore very eager and very earneſt to have it thoroughly ſettled, which if once done, he very well knew, that the Advantages ariſing from Agriculture, Fiſhing, and Trade, for which, from the Richneſs of its Soil, the Conveniency of its Coaſts, and the Multiplicity of its Harbours, it

was admirably adapted, would make the Value of it quickly known. In this, if he had not the good Fortune he expected and deſerved, he was not totally diſappointed; and at the ſame Time, had the Pleaſure to perceive, that the more his Notions were attended to, and the cloſer they were examined, the plainer and more probable they appeared; ſo that the Utility of his Scheme was acknowledged in a much greater Degree, than was at that Time of Day held expedient to carry it into Execution.

But as Plans for the public Service, well laid, tho' they ſleep for a long Time, ſeldom fail of waking at laſt, when thro' a Train of unlooked for Accidents and unexpected Events, Adminiſtrations are rouzed to Attention: So before his Death he had the Satisfaction of ſeeing his old Scheme revived, and this Province, which had been ſo long neglected, owned and conſidered in that Light, in which he had long before placed it. This muſt certainly have given him great Conſolation, more eſpecially when he perceived that it was carried on under the Auſpice of a Noble Perſon nearly allied to him in Sentiment, and who had no other Motive to that Care and Concern, which he has ſhewn for this riſing Colony, but his Affection to his Country, and to whatever

whatever may contribute to ſtrengthen her extenſive Empire, and ſecure the Continuance of that Proſperity which ſhe derives from Naval Power, and Settlements well placed and worthily directed. May ſuch noble Attempts meet with that Succeſs they deſerve! May this Country, ſo well ſituated, be thoroughly peopled, and effectually cultivated! May Proteſtants from every Climate meet therein with a happy Retreat from all kinds of Oppreſſion, and by the help of their own Induſtry, under the Protection of the *Britiſh* Government, acquire a comfortable Aſſiſtance, which they will never want Spirit to defend!

He was highly inſtrumental in promoting another good Deſign. A Deſign equally beneficial to *Britain* at home, and to *Britiſh* Subjects abroad, which Coalition of Intereſts is a Thing always to be wiſhed, and may, as in this Caſe actually it was, be without much Difficulty accompliſhed. The Deſign here intended was, the procuring a Bounty upon Naval Stores imported from the Colonies. A Matter of vaſt Advantage to the Mother Country, as it freed her from the Neceſſity of Dependance upon Foreigners, for Commodities of eſſential Conſequence to her Strength, and even to her Safety; as it prevented the purchaſing

ſing them with ready Money, which was in Effect, ſaving ſo much Treaſure; and as it exempted her from many Difficulties which ſhe had often felt, and from the Apprehenſion of which ſhe could not otherwiſe be delivered. Points one would imagine of ſo ſerious a Nature, as if once propoſed, to command the ſtricteſt Attention; and the Truth of which once known, from a cloſe Examination, never to be let ſlip out of Memory.

This Deſign was likewiſe of infinite Benefit to the Colonies, becauſe it afforded the Means of enriching them by Returns from *Britain*, which tho' Nature furniſhed them with the Commodities, they could not otherwiſe have had; it removed Impediments that had long ſubſiſted, it opened a Way for Improvements, that tho' often wiſhed for, could not but with the Aſſiſtance of this Method be attempted, and it converted into Value and Uſe, Lands and Timber, that would otherwiſe have produced nothing. To the Inhabitants of the Colonies therefore, there could be nothing more ſatisfactory, hardly any thing ſo advantageous. But tho' this is ſaying a great deal, yet it is not all.

As ſalutary and as profitable as this Meaſure might be, conſidered in theſe diſtinct Lights; yet its Worth was heightened, its Importance raiſed, and its Utility demonſtrated, from another Conſideration, which was, its uniting the Mother Country and her Daughters in thoſe Points of Intereſt, which ought to be eminently dear to both. At the ſame Time, that it freed *Great Britain* from depending upon Foreigners, it made her ſenſibly feel the Support ſhe received from her Plantations; and while the Colonies reaped a juſt Return of Profit from this Aſſiſtance, they were at the ſame Time more cloſely connected, and taught to diſcover the ſtrong and inſeparable Ties by which they were bound to their Mother Country. Theſe were the undeniable Conſequences of Captain *Coram*'s Project, and which will do eternal Honour to his Memory; they were the true and only Motives to that Ardour with which he purſued it. Enthuſiaſm was natural to his Conſtitution, but it was a political Enthuſiaſm, of the moſt noble Kind, it was that of laying out all his Faculties for the public Good.

But we muſt not imagine, that this Gentleman's Knowledge of, and Love for the Colonies, carried him in any Degree out of that Path which a true *Briton* ought to tread.

tread. He loved the Daughters dearly; but he loved them as Daughters, and therefore could not brook the leaſt Diſreſpect or Diſobedience in them towards their Parent. The Hatters, a very induſtrious and a very uſeful Body of our Manufacturers, thought themſelves with Reaſon aggrieved, by the Method taken in ſome of the Plantations, to interfere with their Trade at Foreign Markets. Captain *Coram* no ſooner heard of this Complaint, than he examined it attentively and impartially; and when he perceived that it was founded in Right, he eſpouſed it with Spirit, he proſecuted it with Diligence, and he obtained for that laborious and indefatigable People all the Redreſs they could expect. They would have acknowledged this Service by a grateful and handſome Return, but Capt. *Coram* had a Notion that if a Man's Hands were not empty, they could not long be clean; he had a juſt Senſe of their Gratitude, but did not care to have it expreſſed by any other Preſent than that of a Hat, which he received as often as he had Occaſion, and which in its Size ſpoke the good wiſhes of the Makers in a very legible Character.

In his private Life, this Gentleman ſhewed the ſame Probity, the ſame Chearfulneſs, the ſame Frankneſs, the ſame Warmth, and the ſame Affection, that he diſcovered in Matters which reſpected the Public; ſo that as a Maſter, and as a Huſband, he acted upon the very ſame Principles, that he would have certainly ſhewn if he had been raiſed to any conſpicuous Station of Life. It is neceſſary to mention this, that the Uniformity of his Conduct may appear, which affords the trueſt Method of judging of Men's real Characters, ſo as to leave no Scruple or Doubt upon the Minds even of the moſt cautious Enquirers. Beheld in this Light, there could not well be conceived a Man of greater Simplicity of Manners; what he thought, he ſpoke, what he wiſhed he declared, without Heſitation, purſued without Relaxation or Diſguiſe, and never conſidered Obſtacles any farther than to diſcover means to ſurmount them.

While he lived in that part of this Metropolis, which is the common Reſidence of Seafaring People, he uſed to come early into the City, and return late, according as his Buſineſs required his Preſence, and both theſe Circumſtances afforded him frequent Occaſions of ſeeing young Children expoſed, ſometimes alive, ſometimes dead, and

ſometimes

ſometimes dying, which affected him extreamly. The Reader cannot wonder at this, for a public-ſpirited Man is always humane; and he who is inclined to wear out his Life in rendering Services to his Fellow-ſubjects, will naturally have the moſt tender Feeling for the Sufferings of his Fellow-Creatures. This was preciſely Mr. *Coram*'s Caſe, he ſaw this Calamity in its proper Light; and, like an honeſt and worthy Man, thought it would do Honour to the Nation to ſhew a public Spirit of Compaſſion for Children thus deſerted, through the Indigence or Cruelty of their Parents; and the rather becauſe, this was already done in other Countries.

He began, in reſpect to this Deſign, as he did in all others, with making it the Topic of his Converſation, that he might learn the Sentiments of other Men; and from thence form ſome Notion, whether what he had in view was practicable. It was not long before he concluded in the Affirmative; and upon frequent Trials he found that there were Numbers of all Ranks of his Sentiments, and not a few who thought it a Shame that a Charity ſo obvious, ſo uſeful, and ſo neceſſary, ſhould have been ſo long neglected. This pleaſed him extreamly, and he undertook, with the greateſt

Alacrity

Alacrity poſſible, to bring ſo noble, ſo beneficent, ſo charitable, ſo national, and ſo Chriſtian an Undertaking to bear, by procuring for it the Sanction of public Authority. But alas! he found his Expectations ſtrangely diſappointed by an Infinity of croſs Accidents, that would certainly have wearied out the Patience of a Man whoſe Reſolution had not been equal to the Vehemence of his Temper. To this Circumſtance Mr. *Coram* oppoſed an unrelenting Perſeverance, ariſing from a well founded Perſuaſion, that if the Deſign was not carried into Execution by him, it might for a long time, perhaps, for ever remain abortive.

This laudable, this invincible Obſtinacy, carried him through ſeventeen Years of Labour, which ſcarce any other Man would have ſupported for ſeventeen Months if his own private Fortune had been the Baſis of his Purſuit. In this Space, the Opinion of the Public had been frequently declared on his Side, and ſeveral Perſons of ſound Senſe and enlarged Minds actually bequeathed conſiderable Sums to this Charity, when it ſhould have a legal Authority, which was the higheſt Teſtimony they could poſſibly bear of their Senſe of its Utility.

Utility. Our Advocate for the Helpleſs and the Unborn, left no Stone unturn'd, let no Opportunity ſlip, but continued to ſolicit where he had no Intereſt, with as much Ardour and Anxiety as if every deſerted Child had been his own; and the Cauſe of the unfounded Hoſpital, that of his Family. His Arguments moved ſome, the natural Humanity of their own Temper more, his firm and generous Example moſt of all. For even People of Rank began to be aſhamed to ſee a Man's Hair become Grey in the courſe of a Solicitation by which he was to get nothing. Thoſe who did not enter far enough into the Caſe, to compaſſionate the unhappy Infants for whom he was a Suitor, could not help pitying him, or indeed forbear admiring a Virtue ſo much more worthy of Reſpect, conſidering the Age in which it was exerted. A Virtue which would have done Honour to the moſt virtuous Nations in their moſt virtuous Periods, a Virtue that made an Impreſſion even on ſuch as thought it incomprehenſible. But however it was, an Impreſſion it made, and a general Diſpoſition appeared in favour of this Charity. It is however doubtful what Effect this would have had, or how ſoon that Effect might have been produced if it had any.

But

But this good Man, whoſe Head was fertile in Expedients, bethought himſelf at laſt of applying to the Ladies. He knew their Nature, he knew their Influence, and ſoon found that he was in the right Road. They did not liſten much to his Arguments; for the Sweetneſs of their own Tempers ſupplied a Tenderneſs that rendered Arguments unneceſſary. They concurred with Mr. *Coram* in his Deſign, and they concurred in his own Way. They were earneſt, aſſiduous and ſincere, and manifeſted a greater Eagerneſs to do good, than the moſt ſelf-intereſted dare avow in Purſuits upon their own Account. This anſwered its End; and by the Help of theſe Auxiliaries, Mr. *Coram* was enabled to procure a Charter, to prevent the moſt infamous of all Murders, becauſe the moſt unnatural; and which will ſupply thouſands of uſeful Subjects to the Crown of *Great Britain*, a Charter which did Honour to the Great Seal, and ſpoke in a literal Senſe that Prince whoſe Stamp it bore, the Father of his People, as he was before confeſſed in every other Senſe whatever.

On *Tueſday November* the 20th, 1739, was held at *Somerſet-houſe* the firſt general Meeting

Meeting of the Nobility and Gentry appointed by his Majeſty's Royal Charter to be Governors and Guardians of the Hoſpital for the Maintenance and Education of expos'd and deſerted young Children, to hear their Charter read, and to appoint their Secretary and a Committee. Previous to the reading of the Charter, Captain *Coram*, the Petitioner for the Charter, addreſſed his Grace the Duke of *Bedford*, the Preſident, in the following Manner:

'My Lord Duke of *Bedford*,

'It is with inexpreſſible Pleaſure I now 'preſent your Grace, at the Head of 'this Noble and Honourable Corporation, 'with his Majeſty's Royal Charter, for 'eſtabliſhing an Hoſpital for expos'd Chil-'dren, free of all Expence, thro' the Aſ-'ſiſtance of ſome compaſſionate great La-'dies, and other good Perſons.

'I can, my Lord, ſincerely aver, that 'nothing would have induced me to em-'bark in a Deſign ſo full of Difficulties and 'Diſcouragements, but a Zeal for the 'Service of his Majeſty in preſerving the 'Lives of great Numbers of his innocent 'Subjects.

'The long and melancholy Experience 'of this Nation has too demonſtrably ſhewn 'with what Barbarity tender Infants have 'been expoſed and deſtroy'd, for want of 'proper Means of preventing the Diſgrace, 'and ſuccouring the Neceſſities of their 'Parents.

'The Charter will diſcloſe the extenſive 'Nature and End of this Charity, in much 'ſtronger Terms than I can poſſibly pre-'tend to deſcribe them; ſo that I have on-'ly to thank your Grace and many other 'noble Perſonages, for all that favourable 'Protection which hath given Life and 'Spirit to my Endeavours.

'My Lord, altho' my declining Years 'will not permit me to hope, ſeeing 'the full Accompliſhment of my Wiſhes, 'yet I can now reſt ſatisfied; and it is 'what I eſteem an ample Reward of more 'than ſeventeen Years expenſive Labour, 'and ſteady Application, that I ſee your 'Grace at the Head of this charitable 'Truſt, aſſiſted by ſo many noble and ho-'nourable Governors.

'Under ſuch powerful Influences and 'Directions, I am confident of the final 'Succeſs of my Endeavours; and that 'the Publick will one Day reap the hap-

'py

'py and laſting Fruits of your Grace's and
'this Corporation's Meaſures; and as long
'as my Life and poor Abilities endure, I
'ſhall not abate of my zealous Wiſhes and
'moſt active Services for the Good and
'Proſperity of this truly Noble and Ho-
'nourable Corporation.'

After the Charter was read, Dr. *Mead*, in in the moſt pathetic Manner, ſet forth the Neceſſity of ſuch an Hoſpital, and the vaſt Advantages that muſt accrue to the Nation by this uſeful Eſtabliſhment; which was received with univerſal Approbation; becauſe nobody could entertain the leaſt doubt of the Truth or Certainty of what the Doctor ſaid.

At a ſubſequent Court the ſame learned Perſon moved, that the Thanks of the Corporation might be given to Mr. *Thomas Coram*, for his indefatigable and ſucceſsful Application in favour of this Charity, which otherwiſe would have wanted a legal Foundation. It may be eaſily ſuppoſed that the good Old Man was not inſenſible on receiving the only Reward of which his Labours were capable. But he was juſt as well as generous, and would not take more to himſelf than he deſerved; he therefore deſired that the Thanks of the Corporation might be likewiſe given to the Ladies

through whoſe Aſſiſtance his own Endeavours became effectual; and he was accordingly empower'd to return them the Thanks of that honourable Body, which was an additional Pleaſure to a Mind ſincere and grateful like his.

Time and Accidents could make but little Alteration in his Temper. The Motives from which he firſt eſpouſed this Charity, kept him always attached to its Intereſts. He often viſited the Hoſpital, and ſaw the Children reſcued from Miſery by his Care and Compaſſion, with as much Pleaſure and Tenderneſs, as if they had been his own, as indeed in ſome Senſe they were. He beheld the Liſts of Benefactors with more Pleaſure than a Miſer regards thoſe of his Securities. He had the ſame Delight in perceiving the quick Progreſs of this excellent Eſtabliſhment, as a Man of another Turn would have felt from the Improvement of his own Eſtate. This was peculiar to his Character; this was the ruling Paſſion of his Mind; this was the Elixir that kept him from feeling the frowns of Fortune in the Winter of his Age. Wrapt in that Cloak of public Spirit, which, tho' worn for ſo many Years, never grew thread-bare, he heard thoſe Storms whiſtle round him unmoved, which would

would have frighted a Perſon of ordinary Courage out of his Wits.

For the Truth is, honeſt Reader, and I muſt not conceal it, that this worthy Man, who could feel ſo much for others, felt but little for himſelf. After he loſt his Wife, the only Loſs for which he ever ſhewed much Regret, he was ſo attentive to publick Affairs as to be a little too careleſs of his own; inſomuch that he might have known even that Evil, which no Man could have known, while it was in his Power to relieve. But his Friend, Mr. *Gideon*, who loved him for loving the Publick, interpoſed, and obtained a Subſcription for his comfortable Support; towards which his Royal Highneſs the late Prince of *Wales* ſubſcribed twenty Guineas *per Annum*, and paid it with as much punctuality as any of the reſt of the Subſcribers, who were moſt of them Merchants: And upon this friendly Aſſiſtance, which he lived to want, but not to aſk, he ſubſiſted for ſome Time, which gave him an Opportunity to form new Schemes of the ſame Kind with thoſe he had executed already; Schemes full of Goodneſs, and which had a Tendency to ſpread the Influence of *Britain*, and to expand the Nation's Glory in the like Degree.

The

The Reader may be ſurprized, and indeed his Surprize will be very excuſable, that a Perſon whoſe Worth and Services were ſo well known, ſhould be left to ſuch Diſtreſs; and that in a Country where the Public pays ſo much to Place-men, no notice ſhould be taken of a Man who deſerved a Place ſo well as Mr. *Coram* did. But firſt of all it muſt be conſidered, that tho' the Public diſcharge the Expence of many, yet their Choice is aſked in filling very few Places. Our Hero had indeed very great Qualities, but they were far from being well turned for any thing of this Kind. He who had ſpent his Life in ſoliciting for others, could not ſpeak a Word for himſelf. It is therefore no wonder that he was not provided for. Dumb Men are not fit for Places. But if the Reader enquires why he did not ſpeak, the Anſwer, perhaps, may not be difficult. Men of true public Spirit are, of all others, the moſt aſhamed to aſk private Favours. In others it would be Pride, in them it is the Effect of Principle. It may be ſaid then, a Place ſhould have been given him. To this there can be no Reply; yet, perhaps, it may be ſome Excuſe to ſay, that while a Multitude of Claims are put in for every

Place,

Place, we have no reaſon to be amazed, that a Man who would never aſk, ſhould always be forgot.

But Providence provided for him, and he had a comfortable Subſiſtence to the laſt, by a Method that he did not, nor indeed could take amiſs. He was maintained by the voluntary Subſcription of Men of public Spirit; this was an Honour to them, and an Honour to him. Had his Diſtreſs been generally known, he might, no doubt, have been more amply provided for; but that was what he did not want, and what he would never ſeek. He was content with a little, pleaſed with being his own Maſter, and with having the Liberty to employ his Thoughts to the End of his Life, in the ſame Manner that they had been employ'd from the Beginning, in contriving for the public Benefit; for whatever his Circumſtances were, his Heart could never be narrow.

His laſt Deſign, now left an Orphan to the public Care, which it well deſerves, was a Scheme for uniting the *Indians* in *North America*, more cloſely to the *Britiſh* Intereſt, by an Eſtabliſhment for the Education of *Indian* Girls. This is, indeed, a very political Contrivance; for if the

the Girls be brought up in Chriſtian Principles, we have juſt Grounds to hope, indeed, we have no Reaſon to doubt, that the *Indian* Children of both Sexes in the next Generation will be brought up Chriſtians. This would be a refined Stroke of Policy; for he is the wiſeſt and ableſt of all Politicians, who, by promoting the Glory of God, intereſts the Divine Providence in extending the Power of any Nation. We know in how wonderful a Manner the Goſpel was propagated, and we may confidently expect, that where this is ſincerely the Aim of any Government, the ſame Aſſiſtance will not be wanting; for whatever Men may do, the great Author of all Things never alters his Maxims; and to follow them is the moſt infallible Method of ſecuring, might we not ſay, commanding Succeſs. May this charitable and pious Purpoſe, in which he liv'd long enough to make ſome Progreſs, be compleated in virtue of his Propoſal; and let the benighted *Indians* in *America* join with the deſerted Foundlings in *Britain*, in bleſſing the Memory of that worthy Man, by whom a Proviſion was made, that they ſhould come to the Knowledge of Truth, and of the Means of making them-

themſelves happy here. by their Induſtry, and by their Piety, hereafter.

If it had been in our Power to have taken notice of all the other Inſtances he gave of Beneficence, Fortitude, and Love for Society, which are the true Virtues of a Patriot, this little Work would ſwell to a Volume; what is here ſaid therefore muſt be regarded as an imperfect, indeed a very imperfect and haſty Sketch of his Character, which however may, from its Intention, rather than Performance, be agreeable to his Friends; and may, perhaps, ſerve, in ſome Meaſure, to excite in others a Deſire of imitating ſo amiable an Example. For who that has any reſpect for Virtue, any Appetite to laudable and ſpotleſs Fame, the nobleſt Purchaſe that human Induſtry can make, can be inſenſible to that juſt and general Concern which the beſt and worthieſt Men in this Metropolis have ſhewn for the Loſs of Captain *Coram*, or that Readineſs with which they have expreſſed their Approbation of his Conduct, and the voluntary Teſtimonies they have given to his Merit and Services? Theſe are things that will affect thoſe who are above the common Purſuits of the World, who ſeek not

either tinſel Grandeur, or the Embaraſſment of Riches, but yet are far from leading a Life of Indolence, or diſclaiming all Pretenſions to that Glory which is ſo properly the Reward of Virtue, that it can attend on nothing elſe.

This ſingular and memorable Man exchanged this Life for a better, and paſſed from doing to enjoying Good, on *Friday March* the Twenty-ninth, 1751, in the Fourſcore and Fourth Year of his Age; making it his laſt Requeſt, that his Corpſe might be interred in the Chapel of the Foundling-Hoſpital; which ſhews, he had that excellent Foundation at his Heart, when all Things that regarded this World beſides were out of his Thoughts. A Circumſtance that demonſtrates the Steadineſs of his Affection, and the happy Feeling he had of what he had done for that Place; when he was on the Point of going where Pious and Charitable Actions afford the higheſt Recommendations, where his Merit in that, and in all other Reſpects, will be fully known and fully rewarded.

Accordingly on *Wedneſday* the third of *April*, agreeable to his Requeſt, his Remains were interred in the Chapel of that Hoſpital; his Pall ſupported by Six, and his Funeral attended by a great Number of the Ho-

Honourable and worthy Perſons, who are Governors of that uſeful Charity, and who manifeſted upon this melancholy Occaſion, their ſincere Regard for the Deceaſed, and the Pleaſure they took in paying this deſerved Reſpect to his Memory. A Ceremony which, joined to the high Reputation and numerous Acquaintance of the Deceaſed, could not have failed of attracting abundance of Public-ſpirited Perſons, deſirous of giving this laſt Mark of their Eſteem for a Man of Mr. *Coram*'s Worth; and who, through the Progreſs of a long Life, had ſhewn himſelf a laudable, as well as active Member of Society.

But the Concourſe was much increaſed, and the Solemnity of the Funeral greatly heightened, by the voluntary Appearance of the Choir of St. *Paul*'s Cathedral, who were at the Hoſpital ready in their Surplices to receive the Body; and who performed, with the univerſal Approbation of a crouded and diſtinguiſhed Audience, a grave and noble Piece of Muſic, ſuitable to the ſad Occaſion; and which, with the genuine Teſtimonies of Sorrow, not to be ſuppreſſed, did all the Honour to this good Man, that even the Piety and Affection of hisFriends could expect. The Governors of the Hoſpital have it alſo in their Intention,

to

to raiſe a ſuitable Monument, tho' indeed, the Hoſpital itſelf may be ſo ſtiled, that Poſterity may be the better acquainted with his Virtues, and their Gratitude.

Let me be permitted to conclude, with what may add ſome Degree of Merit to this little Piece, deficient enough in other Reſpects, the Words made uſe of by a Friend of his, in that Paragraph which gave the firſt Hint to this Performance; and which is indeed a true Character of Mr. *Thomas Coram* in very few Words,—*That when others are remembered by Titles and Adulation, his ſhall be nobler* FAME, *to have lived above the* FEAR *of every Thing but* AN UNWORTHY ACTION.

F I N I S.

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